

Certificate of Mailing/Transmission (37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)):

[X] Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.8, I hereby certify that this paper and all enclosures are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail on the date indicated below in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.6(d), I hereby certify that this paper and all enclosures are being sent via facsimile on the date indicated below to the attention of Examiner _____ at Facsimile No. _____ at _____ a.m./p.m.

Dated: August 29, 2003

Name of Person Certifying:
Printed Name:

Melissa Sanchez
Melissa Sanchez

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Donald T. Shannon et al.

Assignee: Edwards Lifesciences LLC

Filing Date: October 31, 2001

Examiner: Brian E. Pellegrino

Serial No.: 10/001,765

Group Art Unit: 3738

Title: RADIALLY EXPANDABLE TUBULAR STENTED GRAFTS

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RECEIVED

SEP 05 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action, dated May 30, 2003, in the above-identified patent application. A petition for a two-month extension of time accompanies this response.

The Examiner identified the following species in the Office Action:

Forms of Stent Graft:

- I. Stent with outer covering.
- II. Stent with inner tubular graft.
- III. Stent with PTFE inner graft and outer PTFE tape.

Design of Stent

Species 1: Figs. 7,7a.

Species 2: Figs. 8,8a.

Type of Stent:

Species A: self-expanding

Species B: pressure-expandable

Application of Polymer Coating:

- 1) immersion in a liquid polymer.
- 2) electron beam deposition.
- 3) tubular covering adhered to polymer coating.

Applicants are filing an Amendment in the above-identified application concurrently herewith. This Amendment cancels all the pending claims and adds new claims, rendering the instant restriction requirement moot.

In case the aforementioned Amendment is not entered, Applicants provisionally elect with traverse the following species:

Form of Stent Graft: Species III; design of stent: Species 1; Type of Stent: Species A; and Application of Polymer Coating: Species 1). The following claims read upon the elected species: 1-6, 8-27, 29-38, 40-42, 74-79, 81-98, 100-109, and 111-113.

THE REST OF THIS PAGE HAS INTENTIONALLY BEEN LEFT BLANK.